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'Don't Quit in Viet Nam'

America cannot afford to ignore its future stake in Southeast Asia, a former research assistant of the Central Intelligence Agency told the World Affairs Conference here last night. The two-day seminar and lecture session is sponsored by the Town and Country League, a Cheyenne women's organization.

The speaker was Dr. Frank Darling, now assistant professor of political science at the University of Colorado. As a CIA staff member, he once was assigned to Southeast Asia.

Three factors, Darling told a banquet session of the conference last night, make it imperative that this country continue its fight in South Viet Nam.

One of these is that the population in Southeast Asia totals approximately 200 million persons, a vast number to be allowed to go to the "enemy." Darling made it clear his definition of the "enemy" is the Communists.

Another major factor, he said, is the great wealth in tin, rubber, petroleum, zinc and many other forms of wealth. A third is that Southeast Asia occupies one of the most strategic locations in the world, situated as it is as a buffer between China and India and on a vital waterways crossing.

U.S. foreign policy as related to Southeast Asia originated in 1948, Darling said, with a meeting in India between various Communist party groups representing a wide array of Asian nations at which wide spread disorders against then existing civil governments were planned.

The United States then launched a response to this program which amounted to a policy of containment of this Communist aggression. U.S. policy was based on both selfish and altruistic motives, Darling said, and it was aimed at aiding the domestic interests of this nation as well as aiding the nations affected by the Communist drives as well.

Darling suggested that in South Viet Nam today, where he said the only alternative open to us was to pursue our present policy of firm but patient countering of North Viet Nam aggression, we must take steps to implement our military efforts with an expanded program of our own guerrilla warfare against the Viet Cong guerrillas.

The U.S. and its South Viet Nam allies also must provide more aid and technical assistance to South Viet Nam as a means of improving the country's economy.

Darling did not take too pessimistic a view of the frequent change in South Viet Nam governments in Saigon. The constant shifting of power has its good side, he said, and that is an apparent unwillingness of the people to accept a dictator.

Despite the bewildering number of political coups in Saigon, he said, that country may be arriving gradually at some governmental stability.

The U.S. faces four alternatives in South Viet Nam, Darling said. One is to get out entirely, an event he described as most unlikely because it would free the Asian Communists to expand their aggressions elsewhere. A second is neutralization of the area which is unlikely because the North Vietnamese Communist leaders have staked their entire political careers on Red subjugation of South Viet Nam and would not agree to such a decision.

A third is to expand the war, but this would provide us with another Korea. The only solution, Darling thinks, is to continue generally along the line we presently are following with possibly greater employment of U.S. military forces in South Viet Nam, with a firm but patient persistence in seeking to drive out the Viet Cong and defeat their purrse.